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GROWING ORCHIDS IN THE HOME



Rivermont
O R C H I D S
SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE

Suggestions and instructions for growing orchids in the home are as many and as varied as recipes for roasting meat or making a cake - delightful results are obtained even though the procedure may vary.

The present day home with its well lighted rooms, sunporches, picture windows, automatic heat, and in many instances, air conditioning, lends itself well to the successful growing and flowering of various orchid plants.

Temperatures

Generally, orchids divide themselves into three winter night temperature groups:

1. 65° to 70° NIGHT TEMPERATURE
WARM GROWING ORCHIDS, Small seedlings of all varieties of orchids, Phalaenopsis, certain varieties of Vandas, and many others, thrive and grow well in this temperature.
2. 58° to 62° NIGHT TEMPERATURE
ORCHIDS REQUIRING INTER-MEDIATE TEMPERATURE. The cattleya varieties of orchids which produce the lavender, whites, and white with colored lip, do their best in this temperature. These are the orchid blooms most generally seen in corsages.
3. 50° to 55° NIGHT TEMPERATURE
COOL GROWING ORCHIDS, Cymbidiums, Zygopetalums, certain varieties of Odontoglossums, some varieties of Dendrobiums, Vandas, and others, do their best in this temperature.

While the home is satisfactory for growing many varieties of orchids, we at RIVERMONT suggest that the beginner confine his first orchids to the intermediate type which do their best in a night temperature ranging between 58 to 62 degrees Fahrenheit. After some experience one can then try his luck at several varieties.

Light

For best results place your orchid plants in the best lighted location in your home, whether the best lighted room faces South, East, West or North, makes very little difference. During the extremely hot part of the summer it may be necessary to shield your plants by partially closing your Venetian blinds or pulling your curtains. In most sections of the United States the intermediate type orchid will not require shading from the first of November through March 15.

Humidity and Watering

To provide adequate humidity your plants should be set on approximately 2-1/2" of one-quarter or one-half inch gravel, rock or pebbles. The pebbles should be placed in a water-tight flat tray or saucer-like container. One-half inch of water should be kept in the graveled bottom of the container at all times. Water should never cover the top of the containers. Container suggestions: Ordinary 2-1/2 to 3" white enamel or aluminum roasting pan, rectangular or circular brass jardineres or copper planters. Your orchid should be watered by one-half to a pint of water every seven days and no more. It is not necessary to water the foliage. Leaves should be cleaned with a damp cloth once or twice a year.

Repotting

Your orchid plant will need potting when it grows over the edge of the pot. This can be accomplished at home by securing special material called "OSMUNDA FIBRE". For your first orchid it is suggested that you acquire one that will not need repotting for a year to eighteen months.

Beginning

Your Collection

Your first orchids should be well established plants which should bloom within one to three months. Unless you have had considerable experience you should acquire a *Cattleya* species or hybrid in the \$5.00 to \$12.00 class. As you gain experience, your collection can be enlarged to include the more expensive exhibition plants.

RIVERMONT prides itself in having the finest collection of orchids that is known to exist today. Our range of two and one-half acres is devoted entirely to the growing of orchids. Whether you desire a \$500.00 or a \$5.00 plant, we can supply your needs.

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